

# Abacus Primary School

## Newsletter 505

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# WELCOME BACK!

I hope you all had a great half term break. Not only have the clocks changed for our return but the weather has too. I know it can be a pain walking in the rain but please can you make sure that you are delivering children to classroom doors and not just dropping them at a gate, we have had a number of upset children bring themselves to the office this week because they are late and their classrooms doors have been closed and they haven't known where to go.



This week in our KS1 and KS2 assemblies we spoke about keeping safe around fireworks.



A huge well done to our Wellbeing Ambassadors who did a fantastic job running their cake sale on Wednesday. Thank you to everyone who came along to support them.



After half term, we will be on **WEEK 1** of our menu.

Please see changes further on.

This Anti-Bullying Week, let's make a noise about bullying.

MAKE A  
**NOISE**  
ABOUT  
**BULLYING**

#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

ANTI-BULLYING  
WEEK 2023

from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November

ODD SOCKS  
DAY 2023

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November

#OddSocksDay

#MakeANoise

To launch Anti-Bullying week, we are inviting children to wear odd socks on **Monday 13th November 2023** as part of their school uniform.



Please note, the changes for next weeks dinners that have been highlighted on the menu below.

This only affects Wednesday's option of chicken instead of gammon.

Week 1	Red Band	Green Band	Yellow Band (DF)(GF)(EF)	Purple Band	Dessert
Monday	Chicken Korma, Rice & Naan Bread GF, DF, EF	Sweet Potato Korma, Rice & Naan Bread GF, DF, EF	Jacket Potato with Filling	Chicken Nugget Wrap DF, EF	Fruit Cocktail or Fresh Fruit
Tuesday	Meat Feast Pizza Spaghetti Hoops GF, DF, EF	Cheese & Tomato Pizza Spaghetti Hoops GF, DF, EF	Jacket Potato with Filling	Ham Sandwich & Crisps GF, EF, DF	Carrot Cake or Fresh Fruit
Wednesday	Roast Chicken, Roast Potatoes, Vegetables & Yorkshire Pudding GF, DF, EF	Roasted Vegetable & Cheese Burrito Vegetables GF, EF	Jacket Potato with Filling	Cheese Roll & Crisps GF, EF	Yoghurt or Fresh Fruit
Thursday	Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Pasta GF, DF, EF	Tomato & Basil Pasta Garlic Bread GF, DF, EF	Jacket Potato with Filling	Tuna & Cucumber Baguette GF, DF, EF	Chocolate Iced Sponge or Fresh Fruit
Friday	Jumbo Fish Finger, Chips & Peas GF, DF, EF	Macaroni Cheese & Peas GF, EF	Jacket Potato with Filling	Tomato Pasta Pot GF, DF, EF	Cookie or Fresh Fruit

# We love to read!



Well done to Archie, April, Gabriela, Chase, Eloise and Heidi from Year 5 who read to our resident friends at Book Club this week.

Silvanna Court are holding their Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 2nd December 2023 from 11-3pm. There is an option to visit Santa and reindeer as part of this event. If you would like to book a visit then please contact Silvanna Court 01268 437757.



# LET'S CELEBRATE!



Well done to Teddy, Albie, Ire and Ryan or their achievements in swimming, football and Kip McGrath.



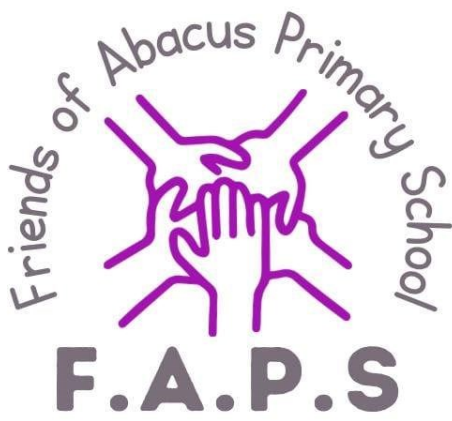
We have paper Poppies for sale in school next week. These will be available in class for the children if they would like to purchase for a donation (suggested £1) Please

send money into class with your child.



Unfortunately, due to being called for jury service, I will be away from school for the next two weeks. This means that my clubs Mindful Mondays, Young leaders and Wellbeing Ambassadors will not take place until further notice. Rest assured I will be in regular contact with Mrs Hunter and the school.

Mrs Blakeley



Do you have any Christmas jumpers or pyjamas that no longer fit your child?

FAPS are asking for donations of Christmas Jumpers and Pyjamas, a box has been left in reception for them

to be dropped off, and then FAPS will sell them these in advance of Christmas Jumper Day.



Please ensure that all Christmas card orders are completed before 8th November 2023.



If you have any prizes that you could donate for our Christmas raffle, please let any member of the FAPS committee know or message us on our Facebook page

[https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064628444729)

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# Our Curriculum



## Early Years Foundation Stage

We have enjoyed a book called 'What's in the Witches Kitchen?' There were lots of lovely things and some tricks along the way! We enjoyed choosing what we would eat if we could pick something out of the kitchen. Ask us what we chose. We have been subitising number 1,2,3 with the number blocks and showing what we have learnt. We enjoyed 'investigating/ demolishing' pumpkins in the tray. Plus made our own potion! What did we make?

## Year 1

First week back of Autumn 2 and we haven't stopped. In English we have learnt about adjectives and came up with lots of words to describe Halloween and Bonfire Night. We even had a go at writing some poetry. Also in Phonics we have started to learn about sounds that sound the same but are spelt differently. In Maths we have explored addition in more depth and using lots of different equipment to help us. In Geography we learnt some facts about Northern Ireland which was interesting. In Art we learnt how to mix primary colours and then change the shade of it.

## Year 2

We have had a great first week back after half term and have been super busy as always! In Science we had a great time food tasting different fruits and cheeses, avocado and olives - we were incredibly resilient and tried lots of different things; we hope some of these things have made it onto shopping lists this week! We have been learning just how important it is for our bodies to eat 7 portions of fruit and vegetables every day. In Computing we have been talking about personal information and how to keep ourselves safe online. In Maths we have been revising our addition skills - adding 3 1 digit numbers together, and in English we have been reading our new model text 'Where The Wild Things Are' which is going to help us write our own exciting tale.

## Year 3

In English this week we wrote some lovely poetry and we have started looking at written recounts with a focus on the book 'Stone Age Boy.' In Maths, we have continued adding/subtracting 3 digit numbers crossing tens. Can your child show you how to use this column method? In History, we have learned about the Bronze Age and how bronze was made. Can your child tell you how it was made? In Science, we have started looking at animals and what they need to survive including their diet. We have enjoyed netball this week in P.E. We can't wait until Monday when we go on our school trip!

## Year 4

Our first week back and it's as though we have never had a week off. In English we have been investigating Fantasy stories and linking our writing to our class book, 'The Magic Faraway Tree'. The specific chapter we are looking at is the land of Topsy Turvy. In Art we have been looking at proportion. We had still life objects to draw then used charcoal. We had to look for the light and dark areas and recreate these using tone. In French we looked at pronunciation and we learned the alphabet in the French language. Ask your child if they remember any of them. During Maths we've been using the inverse to check our work. PE is Gymnastics and Dodgeball this term. We are really enjoying the new lessons, which are now on Tuesday and Fridays. In our reading lessons we have been reading poems about different places and dissecting them to answer the questions.

## Year 5

In English this week we have started a new class book, Cosmic. It's about a taller than average eleven-year-old who ends up in space. This links with our new Science topic on Space. Ask your child if they can use a mnemonic to tell you the order of the planets and any facts they have found out about this week. In Maths we have been using the inverse to check our answers and solving multi-step word problems with addition and subtraction.

## Year 6

Year 6 have had a busy first week back! In English we have started writing a non-chronological report about 'Dia de los Muertos' and to celebrate the day we created an *ofrenda* with pictures of our loved ones, handmade *flores* and colourful *calaveras*. Ask us to translate these words for you. In Art we started our photography unit with a lesson on photomontage where we created our own layered composition as well as an advert for a shop influenced by cityscapes. In Maths we have been working on using mental strategies to solve more complex calculations. The One Minute Maths and Maths Shed (on EdShed) apps are great for reinforcing these skills.

Below is a Focus on children who were born prematurely and their learning

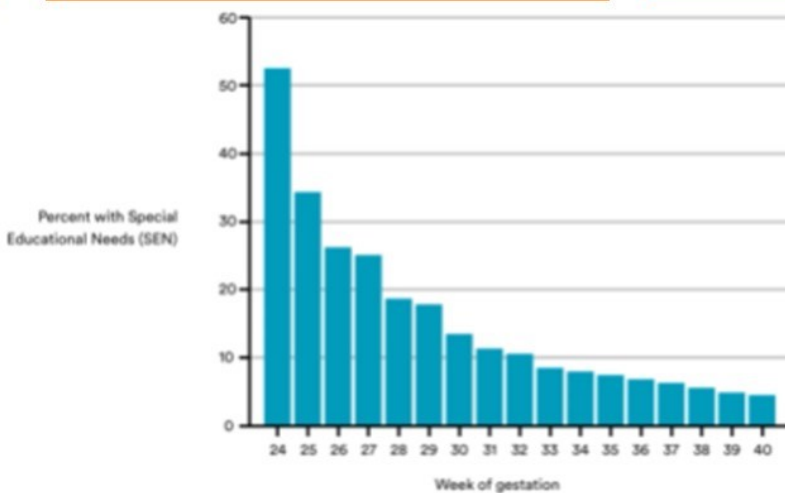
Just before half term we heard that we were successful in gaining our Prem Aware School Award!

As of September this year, it is part of our induction programme to ask if children were born prematurely and use this information to collate a register of children in the Abacus community that we know are preterm. This is so that we can monitor their progress closely and support if needed. If your child is in year 1 or above and was born prematurely and you would like us to add them to our register or are concerned about your child's learning, please let Mrs Hunter know.



Every year **60,000** babies in the UK are born premature (prior to 37 weeks' gestation) and make up 46 per cent of babies requiring admission to specialist Neonatal Intensive Care Units<sup>1</sup>. This is around **7% of births**<sup>2</sup>.

Evidence tells us that children born preterm are at higher risk of Special Educational Needs (SEN) than children born at term. As 2 or 3 children in every average size primary school class may have been born preterm, being Prem Aware is important for all teachers.



The World Health Organisation categorises pre-term birth as;

- Extremely preterm (less than 28 weeks' gestation)
- Very preterm (28 to 32 weeks' gestation)
- Moderate to late preterm (32 to 36 weeks' gestation)
- As might be expected those born the more preterm require the greatest level of support, have a greater risk of co-morbidities and spend longer periods of time in hospital before coming home.

On average, children born preterm have lower levels of academic attainment than children who were born at term. Just as is the case with SEN, the more preterm a baby is born the greater the likelihood they will have difficulties with learning later in life, and the poorer their academic attainment is likely to be. As a group, children born preterm have lower attainment across all national curriculum subjects, but they are most likely to have difficulties with mathematics.

For More Information



<https://www.thesmallestthings.org/who-we-are-1>

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/helm/dev/prism/index.html>

<https://www.bliss.org.uk/>

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# X

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

In October 2022, the enormously popular social media network Twitter was purchased by tech tycoon Elon Musk. That sparked a host of changes to the platform – not all which have been received positively by its fans. The alterations have continued with each passing month, many of them raising online safety concerns among the 530 million users of Twitter (now rebranded as simply X). With further adjustments reportedly in the pipeline, X has attracted more than its usual share of controversy and caution in recent times.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### A BLOCK ON BLOCKING

X has announced plans to remove its blocking feature. Previously, this stopped other users from viewing your profile or sending you direct messages, while also hiding their posts from your feed. Only this latter function will now remain. The decision has been criticised by some members, who feel that blocking (in its current form) protects them from X users who "promote denial and hatred".

### LIMITED REPORTING FEATURES

X offers a premium membership, with some functionality (such as controlling who can view and reply to your posts) increasingly being made exclusive to those who pay the subscription fee. Several commentators have speculated that X could one day become an exclusively paid-for service, with access to accounts being revoked for anyone unwilling or unable to take out a subscription.

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Many of X's less age-appropriate posts can feature anything from extreme political views to pornography. While accounts marked as 18+ are restricted from non-members, it's still fairly easy to stumble across this material accidentally. X's new 'For You' page also shows content from accounts that a user doesn't already follow – meaning that almost anything could end up on a child's feed.

### VERIFICATION FOR SALE

Historically, Twitter's moderators granted account verification: certifying someone as authentic by placing a blue tick next to their username. One of X's earliest changes was to place verification behind a paywall; this caused the number of celebrity impersonators to rise and left no way to distinguish, say, a legitimate influencer from a copycat fake account seeking to exploit other users.

## BLUE TICK SALE

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### PROTECT PRIVACY

Unsavory characters may try to gain access to a young person's X account – either to view their posts and gather information on them, or to completely take control of it. To minimise risk, ensure the account has a strong password and enable the 'Protect Your Posts' feature (via the account settings), so that strangers can't view your child's posts without first being approved as a follower.

### DON'T RISE TO THE BAIT

To gain more views and followers, some X users post deliberately inflammatory comments on sensitive topics such as race, sexual orientation and gender issues. Many young people could find this upsetting. Emphasise that, if your child encounters someone spreading hate on X, it's best not to give that person what they want: an argument. Ignore them, mute their account and move on.

### STAY ALERT FOR IMPOSTERS

Make sure your child understands that X's blue ticks no longer guarantee the identity of anyone on the platform. While it might be exciting if a celebrity liked your child's post, it could just as easily be an imposter with malicious intentions. If your child's not 100% sure that an X user actually is who they claim to be, advise them to err on the side of caution and avoid interacting with that account.

### ONLY FOLLOW TRUSTED ACCOUNTS

Using the 'Following' tab on X helps to ensure that the only content your child sees has come from accounts they've chosen to follow: this should reduce the chance of them inadvertently being exposed to harmful, violent or explicit content. Show your child how to report another user's account if, say, they're behaving inappropriately by spreading misinformation or offensive opinions.

### BE READY TO TAKE ACTION

If your child suffers harassment on the platform or becomes the target of a hack, you could consider deactivating their account entirely. Recently, X's safety features have been criticised for allegedly failing to protect users' wellbeing – so if your child is being subjected to abusive messages or similar mistreatment on the platform, it might be prudent to remove them from X altogether.

## Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



NOS  
National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday





## **NEW INTAKE SCHOOL TOURS**

Our school is holding tours for prospective parents on the following dates:

**TUESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER**

**MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY**

We are holding 3 sessions on each of the above dates:

**9.30am, 10.45am & 1.30pm**

The tours will last for approximately 45 minutes and begin with a presentation sharing key information about our school, followed by a tour led by our "experts" in Year 6.

Please contact our school office on 01268 571018 to book a tour.

\*Tours are by appointment only\*

**We look forward to meeting you all!**